



# Ranger Programs and More

## Today in the Badlands

These programs run from Saturday, June 10 through Saturday, August 19, 2006

Badlands National Park is in the Mountain Time Zone. Some programs are presented at overlooks or trails throughout the park. These locations are identified in the park newspaper and park brochure. You can also find them by watching for white signs announcing programs along the Badlands Loop Road, a South Dakota Scenic Byway. Limited programs will be available after August 19. Check park bulletin boards or at the Ben Reifel Visitor Center for details.

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Guided Hikes and Walks

Geology Walk

8:30 a.m. Daily

Learn about the geologic story of the White River Badlands on this 45 minute walk. Meet at the covered shelter near the Door Trailhead, located at the far east end of the Door/Window Parking Area one mile south of the Northeast Entrance Station on the Badlands Loop Road. **Wear a hat and closed-toe shoes.** Terrain is varied.


Prairie Walk

6:00 p.m. Daily

Join a park ranger for this easy, 1/2 mile walk into the prairie. Meet in front of the Ben Reifel Visitor Center for an exploration of plants and place. **Wear closed-toe shoes and bring a hat, sunglasses, and water.**

Talks and Illustrated Programs

Fossil Talk



10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m. Daily

Find out how fossils can tell us the story of ancient life in the Badlands and why they should be protected at this 15 - 20 minute talk. Presented in the classroom of the Ben Reifel Visitor Center during Fossil Exhibit Trail renovation. The program may be moved to Fossil Exhibit Trail in August. Check at the Ben Reifel Visitor Center.

Ranger Talk

2:30 p.m. Daily

Learn more about Badlands National Park at this 20 minute talk. Individual rangers choose their topic - it may be wildlife, history, wilderness, or a surprise. Meet your ranger in the classroom of the Ben Reifel Visitor Center for an air-conditioned break from Badlands heat and wind!


Prairie Dog Talk

1:30 p.m. Daily

Meet your ranger at Roberts Prairie Dog Town for this 15 minute exploration of life in the park's largest town. This prairie dog town is located 5 miles west of the intersection of the Badlands Loop Road (paved) and the Sage Creek Road (unpaved). **Wear a hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses. Bring water.**

Evening Program


9:00 p.m. Daily

 (Starting August 1st, the evening program will be given at 8:30 p.m.)

Join a park ranger for a 40 minute audiovisual presentation in the theater of the Ben Reifel Visitor Center. A weekly listing of program topics is posted on bulletin boards, at Cedar Pass Lodge, at the Visitor Center, and at local businesses. After July 1, the Evening Program will end in time for you to take part in the Night Prowl!

Junior Ranger Program (Outdoors)


10:30 a.m. Daily



Calling all visitors between 7 and 12 years of age! Meet at the shelter at the Cedar Pass Campground Amphitheater parking lot for a 45 minute adventure into an aspect of the Badlands. **Wear closed-toe shoes and a hat.** It may be a walk, a game, or another activity. Attendees will be awarded a Junior Ranger badge. Parents are also welcome!

Story Time


11:30 Wednesdays



For our youngest - or youngest at heart - visitors. Meet in the classroom of the Ben Reifel Visitor Center for a 30 minute storytelling session. Presenter may read a children's book or tell a Western story from the Lakota or cowboy cultures. **This program may be available other days and times, depending on staffing. Check at the information desk.**

Junior Ranger Program (Indoors)

4:30 p.m. Daily



Want a "take home" project? Visitors between 7 and 12 years of age should meet in the classroom of the Ben Reifel Visitor Center for this 45 minute craft-based program. Attendees will be awarded a Junior Ranger badge. Parents are also welcome!

Night Prowl

10:00 p.m. Daily

(Starting August 1st, the Night Prowl will be given at 9:30 p.m.)

Explore the Badlands at night and enjoy our famous clear night skies. Meet your park ranger in front of the Ben Reifel Visitor Center for a night trip into the Badlands. Those attending the Evening Program can simply join their ranger after the program. After a 400 meter walk along a drainage, explorers will arrive at a natural amphitheater for a 30 minute program. Topics could be astronomy, night animals, or folklore. **Wear closed-toe shoes and a jacket. Bring a flashlight and a blanket or towel to sit on the ground.**

**Program Cancellations: The Badlands are famous for dramatic lightning storms. If lightning is visible from the program location, the program will be cancelled for employee and visitor safety. Programs are typically not cancelled due to rain. Be prepared for changing weather conditions.**

**Advance reservation programs, such as the Badlands Scramble, cannot be cancelled more than one hour prior to the program start due to its early morning schedule and the weather variability. We apologize for any inconvenience to those who arrive to find their program cancelled due to**

### A Word About Your Park Education Staff

Our 2006 staff is made up of full-time and seasonal park rangers and guides, as well as volunteer interns from universities across the country. Due to a lack of funding for paid staff, we use volunteers to operate at previous levels of service. Interns receive training, supervision, housing, and a reimbursement for food and travel expenses. Costs typically run \$2000 per intern. If you would like to sponsor an education internship, please contact the Director of Resource Education at (605) 433-5240 or email us at [badl\\_interpretation@nps.gov](mailto:badl_interpretation@nps.gov)

### Special Events

As we grow into our new facilities - renovated visitor center, new theater, classroom, improved outdoor amphitheater (August, 2006), enhanced Fossil Exhibit Trail (September, 2006), the National Park Service and its partners at Badlands National Park will offer special events. Check at the Ben Reifel Visitor Center or bulletin boards throughout the park for added attractions! During the 2006 Perseid Meteor Shower, the moon is at full cycle so the shower will be less dramatic than in previous years. The Perseid Shower peaks on August 12 so a special astronomy program is planned. Remember to check the park website at <http://www.nps.gov/badl> for updates